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# A BOWNE PROBLEM

BY

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Olivet, Mich.

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## A BOWNE PROBLEM

By JOHN INSLEY CODDINGTON, A.M., of Olivet, Michigan

There were two important families that bore the name of Bowne, who settled in the middle colonies in America during the seventeenth century. The immigrant ancestor of one of these families was Thomas Bowne, who was baptized at Matlock, co. Derby, England, 25 May 1595. He was a shearman, or cloth-worker, and he migrated to the New World early in 1649, accompanied by his son John and his daughter Dorothy (who married Edward Farrington). The family settled first at Boston, but removed soon after 1651 to Flushing, L. I., where Thomas Bowne died 18 Aug. 1677. His son John Bowne was an eminent member of the Society of Friends, and has been called the "Pioneer of Freedom." He was born at Matlock 9 of 3rd. month (May) 1627, and died at Flushing 20 of 10 month (Dec.) 1695. He was married thrice, and from him is descended the large and eminent family of Long Island Bownes, most of whom were Quakers.<sup>1</sup>

The other family of Bownes is descended from William Bowne, who is said to have come from Yorkshire with his wife Ann and son John, and to have settled at Salem, Mass., in 1631. Four more sons (James, Andrew, Philip and Gershom) and a daughter were born to William and Ann Bowne at Salem. The family removed to Gravesend, L. I., about 1645, and to Middletown, Monmouth Co., N. J., in 1664. William Bowne died at Middletown about 1677. His sons were prominent men in Monmouth Co., and all of them seem to have been associated with the Baptist Church at Middletown. John Bowne, the eldest of them, was a patentee of the Monmouth Patent, 8 April 1665; a Deputy to the first legislative Assembly of East Jersey, 26 May 1668, again a Deputy in 1675, and Speaker of the Assembly in 1683. He was also President of the Court in 1677, and Major of the Monmouth Co. Militia in 1683. He died at Middletown 3 Jan. 1683/4. His brother, Andrew Bowne, was a member of the East Jersey Provincial Council in 1692, Deputy Governor of East Jersey in 1699, and Governor of East Jersey in 1701. He died in 1707-8.

The present article is concerned with a certain John Bowne, who in all probability was connected with either one or the other of the foregoing Bowne families, yet whose precise antecedents and relationships have until the present remained

<sup>1</sup> John Cox, Jr., *Some Members of the Bowne, Clement and Thorne Families of Flushing, L. I., N. Y.*; John Cox, Jr., *John Bowne, Pioneer of Freedom*; William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, vol. 3 (Records of New York City and Long Island) (Ann Arbor, Mich., 1940), pp. 39-43.

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shrouded in obscurity. This John Bowne was a Quaker (which leads one to believe that his connection must have been with the Long Island, rather than the New Jersey, Bowne family). He appeared in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in or before 1714, and on 22 Oct. 1714 he bought 100 acres of land from Jasper and Susannah Terry, of Bristol Township, Bucks Co. On 5 of 6th. month (Aug.) 1715, John Bowne and Mary Beakes asked the permission of the Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends to marry. On 3 of 9th. month (Nov.) 1715, they applied a second time for permission to marry, and were told to proceed. There is, however, no actual record of their marriage in the records of the Falls Monthly Meeting; but the marriage must have taken place very soon after 3 Nov. 1715. John and Mary (Beakes) Bowne had three children, Mary (b. 17 Dec. 1716), Abraham (b. 20 Jan. 1719/20), and Ann (b. 18 Feb. 1724/5). Not long after the youngest child was born, John Bowne died, and letters of administration on his estate were issued to his widow Mary (Beakes) Bowne on 1 Feb. 1725/6. Mary (Beakes) Bowne married again on 8 May 1728 Lancelot Martin, of Bristol Township; and there is a lot of information in the Bucks County Orphans' Court records concerning John Bowne's estate, and suits which were brought by the three Bowne children (Mary, Abraham and Ann) to recover their inheritance from the Martins. Lancelot and Mary (Beakes) (Bowne) Martin must have been thoroughly objectionable people.

The records found in Bucks County concerning the family of John Bowne of Bristol Township are given herewith, followed by a pedigree in the usual form.

#### DEEDS

*Jasper Terry and Susannah his wife to John Bowne.* Jasper Terry and Susannah his wife of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., yeoman, send greeting. Whereas Wm. Penn Esquire Proprietary & Governor by Patent dated 24 of 1st. month 1701 did grant to Thomas Terry late of Bristol dec'd. a piece of land in Bristol Township beginning at the corner of Edmund Lovett his land, adjoining land of said Lovett and of John Hiett, Anthony Burton, and Phineas Pemberton, containing 100 acres more or less, by Patent recorded in the Rolls Office in Philadelphia in Book A, vol. 2, pp. 57-58. Now Jasper Terry, eldest son of the sd. Thomas Terry dec'd., and Susannah wife of the sd. Jasper, for £72 10s., do sell the said land to John Bowne of Bristol Township, husbandman, etc., etc. Dated 22 Oct. 1714. (Signed) Jasper Terry, Susannah Terry. Witnesses: Wm. Baldwin, Edmund Lovett, Edmund Lovett, Jr. Recorded 7 April 1715. (Deed Book 5, pp. 91-92, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

*John Bowne and Mary his wife to Edmund Lovett.* John Bowne of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., and Mary his wife send greeting. Whereas a certain piece of land in Bristol Township, adjoining the land of Edmund Lovett, John Hiett, Anthony Burton & Phineas Pemberton, containing 100 acres more or less; and whereas Jasper Terry of Bristol Township did sell the sd. land to John Bowne on 22 Oct. 1714. Now the





sd. John Bowne and Mary his wife, for the consideration of £90 10s., do sell the sd. land to Edmund Lovett, etc. etc. Dated 6 April 1722. (Signed) John Bowne, Mary Bowne. Witnesses: Samson Cary, Solomon Warder, Wm. Atkinson. Recorded 21 Dec. 1761. (Deed Book 10, p. 322, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

### PROBATE RECORDS

Will of MARGARET TODHUNTER of Westtown Township, Chester Co., Pa., widow of John Todhunter, dated 14 Dec. 1723. To my son John Todhunter, £140 at age of 21, he to be brought up and educated at the charge of Stephen Beakes. I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Mary, wife of John Bowne, my set of white Curtains and one halfe of my wearing apparel, Together with the sum of £3 currant mony of America, to be pay'd to her by my executors within twelve months after my Decease. To my daughter Ann, wife of Caleb Perkins, the remaining halfe of my wearing apparel, and £3. To my son Stephen Beakes, the remainder of my estate, and I make my son Stephen Beakes and my friend George Ashbridge executors. Not signed. Witnesses: John Taylor, Thomas Smedley, Benjamin Hickman. Memorandum: "The Testatrix above named being Instantly seized upon by Death was the reason the above said will was not signed as the witnesses Declared." Proved 17 Dec. 1723 by the executors named. (Will Book A, p. 156, Probate Court, Chester County Court House, West Chester, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of JOHN BOUND (*sic.*) Letters issued to the relict Mary Bound, 1 Feb. 1725/6. Fellow-bondsmen: Thomas Watson, Samuel Beakes. £400. (Administration Book A, p. 2, no. 235, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of WILLIAM DOUDNEY. Letters issued to the relict Elizabeth Doudney, 28 April 1729. Fellow-bondsmen: Richard Bidgood, William Brelsford. £150. Inventory filed 28 April 1729. (Administration Book A, p. 3, no. 283, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Will of WILLIAM BRELSFORD of Middletown Township, Bucks Co., Pa., carpenter, dated 22 Oct. 1731. Sick of body. To dear wife Elizabeth 40s. a year for life, and to live on my plantation with my son John, peaceably, in satisfaction of dower. To my son John, my house and lands. To my well-beloved [son?] Abraham Brelsford, my house and mill at Bristol. To my son Isaac. To my daughter Lydia. Joseph Headley and John Sisom to be executors. (Signed) William Brelsford. Witnesses: Richard Jones, Hannah Headley, Samuel Brelsford. Proved 8 Nov. 1731. (Will Book 2, p. 98, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of LANCELOT MARTIN. Letters issued 5 March 1739/40 to the relict Mary Martin. Fellow-bondsman: Thomas Standland. £700. (Administration Book A, p. 7, no. 437, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of THOMAS DOWDNEY late of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., yeoman. Letters issued 6 May 1748 to the relict Mary Dowdney, and to William Bidgood of Bristol Township. Fellow-bondsmen: William Buckley and Abraham Bowne. £260. Inventory taken by Mark Watson and William Bidgood, 6 June 1748: £145 12s. 4d. (Administration Book A, p. 21, no. 620, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)





Administration of the Estate of ELIZABETH BRELSFORD, widow, late of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa. Letters issued 8 July 1748 to Mary Dowdney of Bristol Township, widow. Fellow-bondsmen: Einion Williams and John Hutchinson, both of Bristol. £20. Inventory taken 8 July 1748, exhibited 8 Aug. 1748. (Administration Book A, p. 22, no. 625, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Will of MARY MARTIN of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., widow, dated 23 Aug. 1756. To my daughter, Mary Palmer, £20. My son, John Martin, to be executor of my estate and to have the remainder. (Signed) The mark of Mary Martin. Witnesses: George Oat, Edmund Beakes. Proved by Edmund Beakes, 24 Sept. 1756. (Will Book 2, p. 300, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of ABRAHAM BOWNE of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa. Letters issued 8 Dec. 1760 to the relict Grace Bowne. Fellow-bondsmen: Benjamin Swaine of Bristol Township, William Large of Bristol Borough. £300. (Administration Book A, p. 34, no. 1056, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Will of BENJAMIN SWAIN of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., yeoman, dated 31 March 1791. My son David Swain and my grandson Benjamin Swain to be executors. To my daughter Catharine Silvers, wife of James Silvers. To my grandchildren Benjamin, Samuel, David, Jonathan, Abraham, Elizabeth and Hannah Swain, children of my deceased son Abraham Swain. Jonathan Woolston of Middletown to be the guardian of those of my grandchildren that are minors. (Signed) Benj. Swain. Witnesses: Isaac Watson, Thos. Watson, James Hicks. Proved 23 April 1792. (Will Book 5, p. 298, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

Administration of the Estate of JOHN DOWDNEY of Bristol Borough, Bucks Co., Pa., innkeeper. Letters issued 3 May 1796 to Sarah Dowdney, the relict, and to David Olden. Fellow-bondsmen: Richard Bidgood and Charles Bisonett. £5000. (Administration Book B, p. 4, no. 2643, Probate Court, Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

#### ORPHANS' COURT RECORDS

10 Sept. 1739. Petition of Abraham Bown and Thomas Dowdney and Mary his wife on behalf of themselves and Ann Bown humbly sheweth:—

That John Bown late of the Township of Bristol in ye County of Bucks, yeoman, deceased, father to your petitioners (the said Abraham Bown, Mary Dowdney and Ann Bown), about ten years agoe dyed intestate being at the time of his decease legally seised of a certain messuage & plantation situate in the Township of Bristol affsd. as also of a considerable personal estate, that administration of the said decedent's estate was committed to Mary Bown, Relict of the said John Bown deceased, the mother of your petitioners, that your petitioners' said Mother afterward intermarried with Lancelot Martin of the Township of Bristol affsd. And your petitioners being humbly of the opinion that they are as well Entitled to their respective shares or proportions of the yearly profits of the said messuages and Plantation since the decease of their said Father as to their respective shares of the personal Estate of the said decedent, And therefore have desired the said Administrators to accompt to Your Petitioners for the same, the which they have positively refused to do.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that the said Administrators may be required to lay their accompts of the said Administration of the said Estate before this Court and that such Order may be taken in the





premises according to the laws of this Province as to Justice does appertain and your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.

Abraham Bown  
Thomas Dowdney  
Mary Dowdney  
her  
Ann A Bown  
mark

## Memoranda

Mary Bown was born the 17 of the 10th. month (Dec.) 1716.

Abraham Bown was born the 20 of the 11th. month (Jan.) 1719/20.

Ann Bown was born the 18 of the 12th. month (Feb.) 1724/5.

The Inventory of the Estate of John Bown, deceased, was taken the 27 of the 9th. month (Nov.) 1725, by Thos. Watson, Samuel Beakes, Richard Bidgood and Samuel Bunting. It amounted to £276 1s. 11d.

Samuel Bunting was appointed guardian of Abraham Bown, 10 Dec. 1739.

Lancelot Martin, who married the widow of the deceased John Bown, gave bonds for the payment of the childrens' shares of the personal estate of their said deceased father, 15 Dec. 1739.

The share of Abraham Bowne, the sd. dec'd's son, £52 15s. 1d.

The share of Mary Dowdney, the sd. dec'd's daughter, £26 7s. 6d.

The share of Ann Bowne, the sd. dec'd's daughter, £26 7s. 6d.

Items of Expense:

To schooling Ann Bown at Elizabeth Brelsford's, £2 0s. 0d.

To dieting & keeping Abraham Bowne at Jonathan Carlile's, £1 7s. 4d.

(Orphans' Court Records, Case No. 63 (1739): John Bowne's Estate. Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

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14 June 1748. Petition of Mary Dowdney of Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., widow, to administer the estate of Elizabeth Brelsford of Bristol Township, deceased, the mother of her late husband Thomas Dowdney; and petition of Mary Dowdney aforesaid to be appointed guardian of her two minor children John and Sarah Dowdney. The estate of Elizabeth Brelsford had been inventoried at £16 12s. 6d.

Mary Dowdney and Abraham Bown appointed guardians of the said minor children John Dowdney and Sarah Dowdney, 8 July 1748. (Orphans' Court Records, Case No. 135 (1748): Elizabeth Brelsford's estate. Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

11 June 1755. Petition of Samuel Palmer of Northampton Township, Bucks Co., Pa., yeoman, and Mary his wife late Mary Martin, one of the daughters of Lancelot Martin late of Bristol Township, deceased. The petitioners show that the sd. deceased died leaving a widow and four children: James, Mary, John and Margaret. James (the eldest son) and Margaret (the youngest daughter) both died since the death of their father, & under age. Administration of the estate of the deceased was granted to Mary Martin his widow, who petitioned for settlement of the estate in September 1752. There is a Balance of £234 9s. 6d., and the Plantation. Now Petitioners beg this to be distributed.

## Memorandum

Lancelot and Mary Martin's children:

Mary, born 1 of 8th. month (Oct.) 1728.

James, born 12 of 2nd. month (April) 1732; died 24 of 9th. month (Nov.) 1747.





Margaret, born 12 of 5th. month (July) 1734, died 25 of 9th. month (Nov.) 1747.

John, born 14 of 9th. month (Nov.) 1738.

(Orphans' Court Records, Case No. 162 (1755): Lancelot Martin's Estate. Bucks County Court House, Doylestown, Pa.)

#### FRIENDS' RECORDS, FALLS MONTHLY MEETING

- 1704, 4th. month (June) 14: William Dowdney of Bucks Co. married to Elizabeth Ellet, daughter of William Ellet, of Bucks Co., at the Falls Meeting House.
- 1715, 6th. month (Aug.) 5: John Bowne and Mary Beakes apply for permission to marry.
- 1715, 9th. month (Nov.) 3: John Bowne and Mary Beakes apply a second time for permission to marry; are licensed to proceed.
- 1728, 3rd. month (May) 8: Lancelot Martin, of Bucks Co., and Mary Bowne, of Bucks Co., widow, married at the Falls Meeting House.
- 1740, 4th. month (June) 4: Mary Dowdney condemned for marriage contrary to discipline.
- 1742, 6th. month (Aug.) 4: Thomas Dowdney condemned for marriage contrary to discipline.
- 1749, 12th. month (Feb. 1749/50) 7: Abraham Boun dismissed for marriage contrary to discipline.
- 1750, 11th. month (Jan. 1750/1) 2: Mary Dowdney reported married to Benjamin Swaine.
- 1765, 5th. month (May) 15: James Moon, son of James, of Bucks Co., and Sarah Dowdney, daughter of late Thomas Dowdney, of Bucks Co., married at Falls Meeting House.
- 1765, 6th. month (June) 5: John Dowdney dismissed for marriage out of Meeting.
- 1766, 9th. month (Sept.) 3: Grace Bounds and her daughter Mary received (into membership) by request.

#### PEDIGREE OF THE BOWNE FAMILY OF BUCKS CO., PA.

JOHN BOWNE, a member of the Society of Friends, whose origin and background are completely unknown, appeared in Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., in or before 1714. He purchased 100 acres of land in Bristol Township from Jasper and Susannah Terry on 22 Oct. 1714, for £72 10s. He sold the same piece of land to Edmund Lovett on 6 April 1722, for £90 10s. He applied to the Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends for permission to marry Mary Beakes on 5 Aug. 1715; and applied for permission a second time on 3 Nov. 1715, when the young couple were given a license to proceed. John Bowne died shortly before 27 Nov. 1725, when an inventory of his estate was taken. Letters of administration were issued on 1 Feb. 1725/6 to his widow Mary.

MARY BEAKES was born either in the Makefield District of Falls Township (later Makefield Township), Bucks Co., Pa., just before 1696, or in Westtown Township, Chester Co., Pa., just after 1696. She was the daughter of Abraham and Margaret (Hoopes) Beakes, who removed from the Makefield District in Bucks Co. to Westtown Township, Chester Co., in 1696.





Abraham Beakes was born at Backwell, co. Somerset, England, 14 of 3rd. month (May) 1670, son of William and Mary (Wall or Waln) Beakes of Backwell, who came to Pennsylvania with their son Abraham in the *Bristol Merchant*, arriving in the Delaware River in Feb. 1682/3; and they settled in Falls Township, Bucks Co.<sup>2</sup> Abraham Beakes married in Falls Township Margaret Hoopes, who was born about 1674. She was a daughter of Joshua Hoopes, of Great Moorsome in the parish of Skelton-in-Cleveland, co. York, England, by his first wife Ann. Ann (——) Hoopes died before 1679, and Joshua Hoopes married (2) on 1 May 1679, Isabel ———. Joshua Hoopes, accompanied by his second wife Isabel, and her daughter Christian, and by Margaret and Daniel, the children of his first marriage, came to Pennsylvania in 1683, with a certificate of recommendation from the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Rowsby, co. York, dated 4 of 3rd. month (May) 1683. The Hoopes family arrived in Pennsylvania 10 of 9th. month (Nov.) 1683. Joshua Hoopes became one of the leading men of Bucks County, and was many times a member of the Legislative Assembly for that county. It has several times been stated that his daughter Margaret was the child of his second wife Isabel, but this is an error which should be avoided by genealogists.

Abraham and Margaret (Hoopes) Beakes removed from Bucks Co. to Chester Co. in 1696, probably soon after their marriage. Abraham Beakes died in Westtown Township, Chester Co., shortly before 3 April 1703, when letters of administration on his estate were issued to his wife Margaret. Margaret (Hoopes) Beakes soon remarried John Todhunter, of Westtown Township. He died in 1715. As Margaret Todhunter, widow, she was taxed in Chester Co., Pa., in 1715, 1718, 1719, 1720 and 1721. She died in Westtown Township between 14 Dec. 1723 (the date of her will) and 17 Dec. 1723 (the date of probate). The inventory of her estate, taken 30 Dec. 1723, amounted to £255 10s.

Some time after Margaret (Hoopes) Beakes married John Todhunter, her daughter, Mary Beakes, apparently unhappy with a step-father, returned to Bucks Co. to live with her grandfather, Joshua Hoopes, and her uncle, Samuel Beakes. That is how Mary Beakes happened to be living in Falls Township in 1715, and that is how she met John Bowne.

It is ironical that the daughter should have repeated her mother's career so precisely, and that she should not have profited by the experiences of her own youth. After John Bowne's death, Mary (Beakes) Bowne remained a widow a little over two years. Then, like her mother before her, she contracted a second marriage, and, as in the previous case, the results were unhappy. Mary (Beakes) Bowne and Lancelot

<sup>2</sup> Genealogical Note on the Beakes Family, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, vol. 30, pp. 500-502.





Martin were married at the Falls Meeting House in Bucks Co. on 8 May 1728. Lancelot Martin must have been a disagreeable man. He and his wife refused to allow Mary, Abraham and Ann Bowne to have their rightful inheritance from the estate of their father, John Bowne; until the defrauded heirs were compelled to bring suit against the Martins in the Bucks Co. Orphans' Court on 10 Sept. 1739. Fortunately, the suit was successful, and the wrong was righted by law.

Lancelot Martin died shortly before 5 March 1739/40, when letters of administration on his estate were issued to his widow Mary Martin. He left a good estate, consisting of a plantation; and there was a cash balance of £234 9s. 6d. of his estate unsettled in 1755. Lancelot and Mary (Beakes) (Bowne) Martin had issue:

1. *Mary*, b. 1 Oct. 1728, m. (1) at Falls Meeting House, Bucks Co., Pa., 3 of 5th. month (July) 1751 Samuel Palmer, son of John and Ann Palmer. He was b. 28 Oct. 1723, d. 30 July 1756. She m. (2) at Falls Meeting House 14 of 11th. month (Nov.) 1764 Solomon Hunt of Woodbridge, N. J., probably son of Solomon and Catharine (Bishop) Hunt of Woodbridge. Mary, wife of Solomon Hunt, and her daughter Ann Palmer, were granted a certificate by the Falls Monthly Meeting to the Woodbridge Monthly Meeting, 3 of 4th. month (April) 1765.

Children by first husband (surname *Palmer*), recorded at Falls:

- (1) Ann, b. 26 Aug. 1752.
- (2) Jesse, b. 8 Feb. 1755.
2. *James*, b. 12 April 1732, d. 24 Nov. 1747.
3. *Margaret*, b. 12 July 1734, d. 25 Nov. 1747.
4. *John*, b. 14 Nov. 1738, *perhaps* was the John Martin who m. at Falls 5 of 1st. month (Jan.) 1757 Agnes Welch.

After the death of her second husband, Lancelot Martin, Mary (Beakes) (Bowne) Martin continued to live in Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa. She died there between 23 Aug. 1756 (the date of her will), and 24 Sept. 1756 (the date of probate). She never forgave her Bowne children for the suit they had brought against Lancelot Martin and herself, and she cut them off altogether in her will, in which she bequeathed £20 to Mary (Martin) Palmer, the daughter of her second marriage, and the residue to her youngest son, John Martin, who was still a minor in 1756, and so could not serve as executor of his mother's estate. This office was fulfilled, however, by Edmund Beakes, who was one of the witnesses to the will, and who was also a first cousin of the testatrix.

Children of John and Mary (Beakes) Bowne, born in Bristol Township:

- i. *MARY*, b. 17 Dec. 1716; d. in Bristol Township, probably in the 1780's; m. (1) before 10 Sept. 1739 to THOMAS DOWDNEY of





Bristol Township, yeoman. She was condemned by Friends for marriage contrary to discipline on 4 June 1740, and Thomas was likewise condemned on 4 Aug. 1742. They were probably married by a minister, instead of by Friends' ceremony. Thomas Dowdney was b. in Bristol Township ca. 1710, and d. there shortly before 6 May 1748, when letters of administration were issued to his widow Mary Dowdney. Her brother, Abraham Bowne, was one of the fellow-bondsmen. Thomas Dowdney was a son of William and Elizabeth (Ellet) Dowdney of Bristol Township, who were m. at the Falls Meeting House 14 June 1704. William Dowdney d. shortly before 28 April 1729, when letters of administration were issued to his widow Elizabeth. Elizabeth (Ellet) Dowdney m. (2) in 1729 or 1730 William Brelsford of Middletown Township, Bucks Co., who d. soon, between 22 Oct. 1731 (the date of his will) and 8 Nov. 1731 (the date of probate). Elizabeth (Ellet) (Dowdney) Brelsford continued to dwell in Bristol Township, where she seems to have kept a sort of school around 1739. Ann Bowne (see below) was sent to her for "schooling," which was, however, rather unsuccessful, since Ann Bowne, though aged 14, had to "make her mark" in signing the petition of 10 Sept. 1739. Elizabeth (Ellet) (Dowdney) Brelsford was b. at Stoke St. Gregory, co. Somerset, England, 12 April 1683, daughter of William and Mary (Burt) Ellet. She died in Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., shortly before 14 June 1748, when her daughter-in-law, Mary (Bowne) Dowdney petitioned for letters of administration on her estate. The letters were issued 8 July 1748.

Mary (Bowne) Dowdney m. (2) before 2 Jan. 1750/1 BENJAMIN SWAIN or SWAINE of Bristol Township, yeoman, who was b. at Nantucket, Mass. He was a widower, and all the children named in his will appear to have been by his first wife. Benjamin Swain removed from Nantucket to the district of the Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting of Friends in New Jersey, and from there he removed to the neighborhood of Burlington, N. J., with a certificate to the Burlington Monthly Meeting dated 5 Nov. 1750. The Burlington Monthly Meeting granted him a certificate on 3 Dec. 1750 to go to Falls to marry, and he m. Mary (Bowne) Dowdney between that date and 2 Jan. 1750/1. She was given a certificate by Falls Monthly Meeting on 7 Aug. 1751, and this was received by the Burlington Monthly Meeting on 2 Sept. 1751. Benjamin and Mary lived in the neighborhood of Burlington for two years, then they were granted a certificate to the Chesterfield Monthly Meeting in N. J. on 4 June 1753. They returned to Bristol Township, Pa., before 1760, however, and there Mary and Benjamin Swain both died. The latter d. between 31 March 1791 (the date of his will) and 23 April 1792 (the date of probate).

Children of Mary Bowne by her first husband, Thomas Dowdney (surname *Dowdney*), born in Bristol Township:

1. *John*, b. perhaps in 1740, d. in Bristol, Pa., shortly before 3 May 1796, when letters of administration on his estate were issued. He was an innkeeper, and a wealthy man. He had a license to operate the "King of Prussia" Tavern at the corner of Mill and Pond Streets, Bristol, Pa., as early as 1768. He was a burgess of Bristol in 1784-5. He m. (1) by license dated 11 Feb. 1765 (N. J. Marriage Licenses) Mary Priestly of Bristol. The marriage was not performed according to Quaker regula-





tions, and John Dowdney was dismissed from the Society of Friends, 5 June 1765. Mary (Priestly) Dowdney d., and he m. (2) Sarah ———, who survived him, and was administratrix of his estate.

2. Sarah, b. 14 July 1741; d. at the inn kept by her son-in-law, John Thornton, in Lower Dublin Township, Philadelphia Co., Pa., 22 Sept. 1822. She m. at Falls Meeting House, Bucks Co., Pa., 15 May 1765, James Moon, Jr., son of James and Hannah (Price) Moon, of Falls Township, Bucks Co. He was b. in Falls Township 7 Aug. 1738, and resided there till his marriage. He and Sarah then removed to a farm in Lower Makefield Township, Bucks Co., where he lived until his death, 15 March 1796. James Moon, Jr., left a will, dated 12 Nov. 1789, proved 9 April 1796 (Will Book 5, p. 487, Bucks Co. Court House). Sarah (Dowdney) Moon, unlike nearly all her female ancestors, did *not* remarry after becoming a widow. She lived happily with the family of her son-in-law and daughter, John and Mary (Moon) Thornton, and she took care of their enormous family of 16 children after Mary (Moon) Thornton d., 14 Aug. 1814. Sarah (Dowdney) Moon's will, dated 10 Aug. 1818, and proved 4 Aug. 1825, mentioned all the said 16 grandchildren (Will Book 10, p. 385, Bucks Co. Court House).<sup>3</sup>
- ii. ABRAHAM, b. 20 Jan. 1719/20; d. in Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pa., shortly before 8 Dec. 1760, when letters of administration on his estate were issued to his widow Grace. Benjamin Swaine, his sister Mary's second husband, was one of the fellow-bondsmen. Abraham Bowne, though a minor, was one of the petitioners in the petition against the Martins, 10 Sept. 1739. Samuel Bunting was appointed his guardian, 10 Dec. 1739, and at that period he evidently lived at Jonathan Carlile's house. Abraham Bowne and his sister Mary (Bowne) Dowdney were appointed joint guardians of the Dowdney children, 8 July 1748. Abraham Bowne was m. by license dated 1 Nov. 1749 (N. J. Marriage Licenses) to GRACE JONES of Bucks Co., Pa. This marriage was not performed according to Quaker rules, and Abraham was therefore dismissed from the Society of Friends, 7 Feb. 1749/50. Abraham and Grace (Jones) Bowne had at least one child, Anne Bowne, who m. by license dated 6 June 1771 (N. J. Marriage Licenses) Jonathan Butcher of Middletown Township, Bucks Co. Jonathan and Anne (Bowne) Butcher had two children, Jonathan and Mary, who were b. at Middletown between 1771 and 1774. Jonathan and Anne Butcher, and their children Jonathan and Mary, received a certificate dated 1 June 1774 from the Middletown Monthly Meeting to the Falls Monthly Meeting in Bucks Co. The Butchers seem to have removed about 1786 to Fairfax Co., Va.
- iii. ANN, b. 18 Feb. 1724/5. She was supposedly being "schoolled" by Elizabeth (Ellet) (Dowdney) Brelsford in 1739, but the "schooling" was not very successful, since Ann had to "make her mark" in signing the petition of 10 Sept. 1739. Her subsequent history is unknown.

<sup>3</sup> For the Moon family, see W. H. H. Davis, *History of Bucks Co., Pa.*, 2nd. ed., by Ely and Jordan, vol. 3, p. 212. For the Thornton family see THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST, vol. 15, pp. 156-160.















